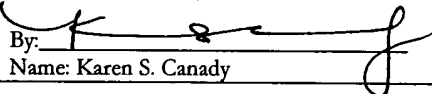


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Luigi Naldini et al. Examiner: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: 10/031,639 Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Filed: October 29, 2001 Docket: G&C 131.3USWO
Title: METHOD AND MEANS FOR PRODUCING HIGH TITER, SAFE,
RECOMBINANT LENTIVIRUS VECTORS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 15, 2002.

By: 
Name: Karen S. Canady

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

AUG 08 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

Prior to a first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows. Marked-up versions to show changes made to the amended paragraphs can be found in the Appendix submitted herewith.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 1-8, with the following:

A1
Recombination at the mRNA level may take place during reverse transcription when both packaging mRNA and transfer vector mRNA (even when generated by separated expression constructs) become co-encapsidated into viral particles. The retroviral enzyme reverse transcriptase (RT) uses mRNA as template for DNA synthesis. Also, RT is known to switch between or away templates. Thus, if two different mRNA's are present within a viral particle, when combined, a single DNA unit could be synthesized by the RT as the result of template switching.